

# ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, 74 VICTORIA STREET, TORONTO 1, TEL. 365-6841

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### PROHIBITION ORDER SET ASIDE BY ONTARIO COURT OF APPEAL

The Ontario Court of Appeal has set aside the May ruling of Mr. Justice C. D. Stewart of the Ontario Supreme Court which prohibited the Commission from proceeding with a Board of Inquiry into the complaint of Carl McKay, a black Jamaican. Mr. McKay alleges that he was denied rental of living accommodations because of his race and colour by K. S. Bell of 30 Indian Road, Toronto.

The Court of Appeal made the unanimous ruling in November, after hearing an appeal presented on behalf of the Commission by F. W. Callaghan, Q.C., Senior Crown Counsel of the Ontario Department of Justice.

The judgment is significant. It marks the first time the Ontario Human Rights Code has been tested before the courts.

The Commission has been informed that the respondent, Mr. Bell, will appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada to reverse the ruling of the Ontario Court of Appeal. Application for hearing will be argued in Ottawa on January 27, at 10:30 a.m.

If leave is granted, the appeal would probably be heard in the spring or early fall of this year.

### AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT AMENDED

The Age Discrimination Act (1966) was amended by the Ontario Legislature on October 31, 1969 to cover the province of Ontario and its agencies. Provincial Government offices are being informed of the extended coverage.

The Commission plans to host a seminar on the Age Discrimination Act in the near future. Representatives of business, labour, government, religious, and other voluntary organizations will be asked to participate.

Some 60,000 pieces of literature about the Act have been placed in daily newspapers, and public service announcements have been aired on radio and T.V. The Commission is preparing car-cards on the Act for display in public transportation vehicles in Toronto. The pamphlet — Guidelines for Employers on the Provisions of the Age Discrimination Act — is now available from the Commission in French and will soon be provided in Italian and Portuguese.

A recent case involved a complaint filed against a Toronto financial institution by a 52-year-old man who was denied an interview for a position as a security guard. He was told he could not be hired because of the organization's pension plan. Commission investigation and conciliation succeeded in securing the job for which the complainant had applied and a letter of assurance was received indicating that the hiring practice of the company was being modified to conform to the Age Discrimination Act.





A 61-year-old woman, a shoe clerk, was reinstated in her position after the Commission investigated her complaint that she was the victim of age discrimination by the branch manager of the shoe store where she worked. The Company manager revealed that the woman was considered extremely competent, and he reinstated the complainant in another branch, later transferring her to her original position. A letter of assurance was sent to the Commission promising adherence to the Age Discrimination Act.

### BOARDS OF INQUIRY

The Commission has appointed several Boards of Inquiry to conduct public hearings into complaints of alleged violations of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

<u>COMPLAINANT</u>	<u>RESPONDENT</u>	<u>SITUATION</u>
R. Johnson	J. Gottlieb, Toronto	Housing
C. V. Kartha, G. Nambudiripad	J. Knebli, Toronto	Housing
Mr. and Mrs. D. Lewis	Mr. & Mrs. J. Katzman, Toronto	Housing
Mrs. P. Amber	Mr. & Mrs. M. Leder, Toronto	Housing
Miss R. Carnegie, Miss C. Challenger	Mr. & Mrs. Gong Shek Jung, Toronto	Housing
E. St. Hill	Mr. & Mrs. I. Grishin, Toronto	Housing
D. Myrie	Mrs. B. Morscher, Kitchener	Housing
K. Simms	Ford Motor Co. Ltd. Oakville	Employment


Board hearings are open to the public. Place and time of each may be obtained from the Commission.

### COMMISSION CASELOAD STATISTICS SHOW MAJOR RISE

Statistics for the first eight months of the 1969-70 fiscal year show a substantial increase in the number of cases being handled by the Commission.

In the period April to November 1969, 507 formal complaints were registered, compared to 412 for the entire 1968-69 fiscal year.

An additional 137 informal complaints were filed, bringing the total caseload figure for the eight months to 644.



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Of the 507 formal cases, 159 were filed under the Age Discrimination Act; 129 dealt with employment discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code; 85 with housing; 36 with public accommodations; 33 with signs and notices, and 65 involved oral and written pre-employment inquiries.

There was a significant rise in complaints reported by Canadian Indians and people from India. People of Negroid origin, however, still comprise the largest complainant group, accounting for about 60% of all cases.

### DOWNTOWN OFFICE BUSY

Increasing numbers of people have been using the downtown store-front office on College Street since it opened in May 1969 as a joint venture of the Commission and the Manpower Division of the Ontario Department of Labour.

The project, known as Services for Working People, operates as a counselling and information centre for an area populated predominantly by recent immigrants. The office is manned by full-time counsellors and two interpreters.

Most problems relate to unemployment or difficulties in a present job. But queries are regularly received about apprenticeship training programs, employment standards, human rights, continuing education, legal assistance, and housing.

The project is an experimental one and the University of Toronto, School of Social Work will shortly begin a research project, under the direction of Dr. Albert Rose, to assess its impact on the community.

### EDUCATION PROGRAM

More than 30,000 pieces of Commission literature have been distributed to the public since August, 1969. Commission staff members travelled to Kitchener, North Bay, London, Hamilton and Hartford, Connecticut, as well as all over Metro Toronto for speaking engagements and conferences.

The Commission participated in the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews National Citizenship Seminar (August); the Indian Institute of Iroquoian Studies at McMaster University (October); the Canadian Conference Committee of Black Organizations (October); Social Planning Council (November), and the North York Home and School Community Conference (November).

### STAFF CHANGES

Harold Brian Attin has joined the Commission as a human rights officer. Mr. Attin has a B.A. in history from the University of Toronto and an M.A. in languages from Columbia University. He has done doctoral research at the Institut des etudes politiques in Paris. He has been public relations director for the American Council of Judaism; associate editor for the German-American Chamber of Commerce; assistant editor of Collier's Encyclopaedia; and Ontario Director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.





Marvin Gandall has been appointed human rights officer in the special projects division. Mr. Gandall is a former Toronto Star reporter with broad experience in public relations and journalism. A native of Montreal, he has a B.A. in political science from Sir George Williams University and an M.A. in labour history from the University of Wisconsin.

There have also been a number of staff changes at the regional level. Miss Florette Osborne has been appointed acting regional supervisor of the South-Western Regional Office (Windsor), replacing George K. Lewis. Bruce J. Lenton is acting regional supervisor of the Northern Regional Office (Thunder Bay), replacing Gerry A. Piper. C. Michael Walker has been named to the new post of Metro Toronto regional supervisor.

#### EDITOR INJURED

A. A. MacLeod, editor of the Commission magazine, Human Relations, is currently recovering from an injury sustained in a recent automobile accident. His many friends in the Commission and outside wish him a speedy return.

